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8 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Special Group (CI)  
3:00 p.m., Thursday, 8 August 1963

Present were: Mr. Harriman as Chairman, Mr. Gilpatric, General Carter, General Krulak, Mr. Coffin, Mr. Murrow, Mr. Mike Forrestal, The Attorney General, etc.

NSC REVIEW  
COMPLETED.

1. Southeast Asia Status Report

This was given in accordance with the printed status report and discussion pointed out that Ambassador Lodge would meet with Admiral Felt in Hawaii on 19 August. The President is concerned to make sure the United States has proper plans for protecting U. S. nationals in the event of national disturbances in Vietnam, and we should also review our contingency plans at the political level to determine what U. S. policy should be and where we should go in the event of a coup or other major national accident. Mr. Harriman asked that each of us be prepared to discuss our portion of such activities next week. It was pointed out that the Department is asking Diem to disavow Madame Nhu's statements or else to send her off to a convent again.

2. Report on Public Safety Activities

After hearing the report as presented by Mr. Coffin, Secretary Gilpatric stated that the Academy can stay at its present location in Panama until July 30, 1965, rpt. 1965. This means that there are almost two years in which to find a substitute location, and further that General O'Meara is anxious for co-location with the Military Police Academy if at all possible. There was general discussion between AID and State as to turning over to the French our Public Safety activities in Africa. This was inconclusive and Mr. Harriman asked for a study in much greater depth as to our Franco-American relations, particularly pointed toward Africa. State is to undertake this. The Attorney General tried to give Byron Engle a hard time on a rough first draft of a course of instruction for the International Police Academy. Byron acquitted himself but left with the task of

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furnishing the Attorney General and Harriman in writing a statement of the purpose of the Academy, just what we are trying to do, how we will select students, what their qualifications will be and what the U. S. is trying to prove by having such an academy--this to be presented next week.

5. Oral Report on Internal Defense Plans

The list of eight countries was approved, and it was determined that the plans would be submitted to the Special Group (CI) who would determine at that time and in each case whether they wish to review the plan substantively. The administrative handling of these internal defense plans and of the broader national strategic studies under Rostow's guidance was most confusing to me, and Mr. Maechling of State did not help any in his explanation. I got the impression that State preferred to keep it fussed up so that they would not have to establish a formal procedure for review and clearance of either set of plans. I did not bring up the offer to prepare current appraisals of the internal security situation in each of the countries. I think we are already overburdened and did not want to volunteer.

4. There was no discussion of next week's agenda or of the minutes of last week's meeting and no opportunity to discuss any intelligence reports.

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